

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 12:57 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: this one just for you....

More analysis from Strobe.

From: Strobe Talbott [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 12:47 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: RE: this one just for you....

I make of it that it's true. Also that it reflects that, even in an era of geo-economics, geopolitics still counts for a lot and so does political power. Four factors—the President's vulnerabilities, at home and therefore abroad; the weakness (if not weirdness) of the GOP field; the preoccupations of Treasury (and the underwhelmingness of its Secretary); and the retrenchment of U.S. hard power—combine make Hillary's strength all the more formidable, in her own right as a powerful person but also as SecState and the steward of a foreign policy that is doing quite well across the board, and, of course, the non-negligible possibility that she might still be president.

What I'd recommend is not to come near this point in the discussion on Monday. But it's something that Hillary should be made aware of it, not to flatter just so she knows this is the way seen. Knowing that will give her confidence to go beyond the usual bounds in setting her agenda and the usual scope of SecState's activity.

To boil it down to an unspoken subtext of the Monday meeting, because of who she is, how she's doing, how she's regarded, she's better positioned to lead economic statecraft than any previous Secretary and anyone else in the current administration.

From: Sullivan, Jacob J [mailto:SullivanJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 12:12 AM
To: Strobe Talbott
Subject: RE: this one just for you....

What do you make of that? And what do you recommend?

From: Strobe Talbott [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 9:28 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: this one just for you....

As I delve in to the euro issue (including a terrific conversation with Liaquat this morning), I've had quite a few people, including Europeans, assert that HRC has more clout on European policy, including their economic policy, than Geithner. He's seen as underwhelming and a spent force, while she's seen as have huge political clout now and lot more potentially in the future. Sensitive, of course, but for what it's worth.

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